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12/5/86

Dear Jim,

More re your 12/2. I could not agree with you more, you ought not argue the JFK assassination. On rereading your letter, however, I have further suggestions that, I think, go along the line you've indicated. There is not only withholding of information - there is control by selective leaking and the FBI was able to control the Warren Commission from the outset by a leak it vigorously denied. More than one but of one thing, its report ordered by LBJ, referred to in the Hoover testimony I sent you this morning. On that I have more than you can use and something I can't tell you, confirmation from the reporter, or one of them, that it was leaked to him and by whom. As you can imagine, I will forever protect him on this. In any event, I have more on this than you can use. The acting AG, Katzenbach, told the Commission that while the FBI was denying it and claiming to make a vigorous investigation, it had done the leaking and what is beyond question, nobody else could have. The FBI then blamed it on the Department. It so hated K over that testimony, in executive session (Ford was DeLoach's stooliegeon inside the Commission), that he eventually resigned as AG and became one of the top men in State. The nature of what the FBI leaked made it virtually impossible for the Commission to conclude anything else and except for one conclusion, an impossibility, it concluded exactly what the FBI reported - and leaked. This also has relevance in the Nosenko matter, because if the USSR had had anything it wanted to plant as disinformation, to direct attention away from it, and it did not, it had no need to use Nosenko or anyone else for any such purpose after that leaking. I believe the first date was 12/2/63 and the biggest leaking was 12/4 and 5. The report didn't leave the FBI until the 9th.

I don't want to argue Nosenko with you but I think you should listen to that story.

You say the press was "blinded" on the assassination and I question that word. In part it was foreclosed because everyone was told to keep quiet and except for the leaking all did. A more diligent press would not have been foreclosed, of course. And I question your suggestion that this was to benefit LBJ. No question about the FBI, but I think LBJ was the innocent beneficiary. (o, I never had any use for him.) The beneficiaries were the FBI, the rest of the government and the official mythology. (Did you know that AP used, verbatim, the "eport's first chapter as its story on the Report?)

Next the KNEW, not KGO, caller-in. After you read what I wrote you'll have a better idea of what you'd like. I referred to checking some things out, without detail. I remember some quite clearly because I'd not known them about LHO and they were both true and not part of the official account of him and his interests. One is that they shot pool together and that Oswald was almost an addict to the game. This was true even when he was a boy. I found those in N.O. who knew this, in particular a gay bartender in a gay bar<sup>s</sup> owned, remarkable coincidence, by the women who then lived in the Exchange Alley apartment next to "rs. Oswald's, Ma Sawyer. (I suppose she was called Ma because she had so few motherly attributes.) When Ma had to move her bar this barkeep stayed with her. Johnny Kormundi (phon.). I spent a long Saturday morning with both of them, separately. Mag was particularly willing to talk because a friend/competitor had just been defamed in the JFK matter, referred to as the mysterious Clay Bertrand on NBC TV's assassination special. (Long and for you irrelevant story that might entertain you and Charlotte.) I'm not clear now on whether the caller-in said that Oswald loved classical music in general, including opera, or just opera, but I found in the Commission's exhibits his love for opera, his favorite being "Queen of Spades." (This also led to additional evidence that he was anti-Soviet, so much so that a Jesuit cautioned him he'd be more effective if he'd

be more moderate in his criticisms.)

I suggest that you think more and more dispassionately about "the concealment of his security clearance could mean that the CIA, in order to cover up its involvement in Strong Back, jeopardized a far more important operation, the overflights of the Soviet Union." I do recall the Pope capture in Indonesia and if my recollection is correct, that was the second CIA anti-Sukarno adventure. But the USSR knew all about the U-2 flights. Powers' was the last, not the first. I think the most logical explanation is Occam's, the simplest: protecting the official line about Oswald and any possible connection he may have had with intelligence. Here is where the Nosenko stuff, an untold story and all public domain, can be exciting. Briefly, the KGB suspected that Oswald was an American sleeper agent. Once Nosenko told that to the FBI his three years of CIA torture, including assorted plots to assassinate him - by the USSR boys in it - began. This is shorthand....Obviously, the USSR had to have a pretty good notion of the U-2's capabilities to develop a missile that could shoot it down. Here also Dulles' testimony is in point: they'd been doing this overflight bit for a long time. (Only one of the enchanting elements in the Dulles account of how the promising Paris summit was torpedoed. U-2d is not a phrase - yet, anyway...If you want to talk about this may I suggest that you tape it and when you are finished let me have the tape for archival purpose?...I've gotten more on Nosenko from the FBI and it makes a shambles of the CIA's line on distrusting Nosenko, its alleged reasons.

I was not suggesting that you use anything on Schrand except the parts of the inquest which relate to the crypto van and Strong Back and where it happened, Subic Point. Oh, yes, the carrier, which was used in the anti-Sukarno adventure. (I've forgotten which carrier, but if it was the Wasp, Oswald picketed it in New Orleans, the first public operation in which he engaged there.)

Jumping back: the Warren Commission's executive session stuff on the FBI's leaking has some of the most remarkably appropriate language, for your purposes.

I suggest that there is a broader pertinence in Schrand's guard duty including the crypto van: the outfits guarded its own plant. I think that among those who testified that the five, including Oswald and Schrand, had the higher clearances is Powers. Is this in the xerox I gave you? I probably have more on that in my file on Jean Davison's book. Did I tell you about Alexis Davison and his family and the name in Oswald's address book? Alexis was caught servicing the Penkovsky drops. I have a file on that.

I've avoided suggesting that Oswald had some kind of CIA connection, and his operating the special radar is not such a connection, at least not with CIA. Nobody ever mentions ONI but I've thought about that often, and without reaching any conclusion. However, the CIA was using people for such purposes in those days and one of the lingering mysteries is how Oswald got to Helsinki from Heathrow when no commercial transportation could have gotten him there when he did. The CIA checked that for the Commission and left it hanging. Both the CIA and the Commission.

However, I do believe that Oswald had some kind of official connection and I did, some years ago, start a book "Agent Oswald," intending the reader to wind up as I do, with a question mark belonging in the title. This kind of interest begins in his boyhood. And he became pretty proficient in Russian while a Marine. Whose last days were spent in the post CID or security office, two versions. Who got a clearly fraudulent discharge and was never charged with that.

I won't mail this until Monday to avoid the Baltimore P.O. Maybe I'll think of more. I should be getting the government's reply brief any day now. It has to be filed by the 8th. Then I have until the 22d.

Best,